



JON S. CORZINE
Governor

New Jersey Office of the Attorney General

Division of Consumer Affairs
State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners
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March 29, 2007

By Certified and Regular Mail

Gregory Pieretti, D.V.M.
Humane Society of Atlantic County
1401 Absecon Boulevard
Atlantic City, New Jersey 08410

Re: I/M/O GREGORY PIERETTI, D.V.M.
"Buddy" March
File Number: 05-002

Offer of Settlement In Lieu of Disciplinary Proceeding

Dear Dr. Pieretti:

This letter is to advise you that the New Jersey State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (hereinafter referred to as the "Board") has had an opportunity to review information it received, filed by Ken and Connie March, concerning the treatment which was rendered to their dog, "Buddy," on October 9, 2004, October 14, 2004, October 19, 2004, October 25, 2004, and November 4, 2004.

Specifically, the information reviewed by the Board included, but is not limited to, the following documents:

1. A complaint filed by Ken and Connie March with the Board's administrative office, on or about December 13, 2004, as well any and all attachments and exhibits;
2. A correspondence dated January 15, 2005, from Dr. Pieretti, as well as any and all attachments and exhibits; and

3. Medical Records of Buddy March.

Upon review of all available information, the Board has preliminarily found that probable cause exists to support a finding that you violated as well as failed to comply with the Veterinary Practice Law, and the provisions of the regulations administered by the Board, in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(d) in that you engaged in repeated acts of negligence, malpractice, or incompetence in your treatment of Buddy. The Board concluded that these violations occurred when you: 1) failed to appropriately treat the dog subsequent to his first surgery; and 2) failed to appropriately treat the dog's post surgical complications at later visits.

Specifically, the Board's review into this matter revealed that, on October 6, 2004, Buddy was neutered at the Humane Society of Atlantic County. On October 9, 2004, the dog was presented to you with inflammation at the incision site. The sutures were cleaned and Animax was dispensed to apply on the incision site as necessary. The owner, Ken March, was informed that Buddy needed to wear his Elizabethan collar as it was not on the dog at that visit. On October 14, 2004, Buddy presented a second time with inflammation and seepage at the incision site. Following an examination, it was determined that the neuter incision was overlapped with exposed skin and you administered certain medications and recommended a follow-up visit in ten (10) days.

On October 19, 2004, the owners returned the dog to you with complaints that Buddy had experienced a seizure that lasted five (5) to ten (10) minutes. According to the owners, Buddy was staggering, rolling around on the floor, urinating uncontrollably, and excessively drinking water. At that visit, blood work was performed on Buddy. The results of the blood work showed evidence of liver pathology and on October 25, 2004, you dispensed Denosyl for Buddy. On November 4, 2004, the owners requested Buddy's medical record. According to your response the complete record was provided to the Marches that same day, although the owners claim that they were not able to get them.

Buddy was presented to a subsequent veterinarian on November 4, 2004 who, after surgical exploration, opined that the cause of the problem "appeared to be subcutaneous tissue interposed between the muscle and fascia layers during the original closure." The Board preliminarily concludes that your failure to appropriately treat the dog when he presented to subsequent to the first surgery and your failure to appropriately treat the dog's post-surgical complications on later visits violates N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(d).

At this juncture, the Board has determined that the above violation is sufficient to warrant the initiation of formal disciplinary proceedings against you. Notwithstanding that determination, however, the Board has determined that it will first offer you an opportunity to settle this matter, and thereby avoid the initiation of disciplinary proceedings, should you consent to:

1. A formal reprimand for engaging in repeated acts of negligence, malpractice, or incompetence, contrary to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(d);
2. Cease and desist from further violations of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(d); and
3. Pay a civil penalty in the amount of \$1,000.00, which is to be paid immediately upon your signing of the acknowledgment at the bottom of this letter, for your violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(d).

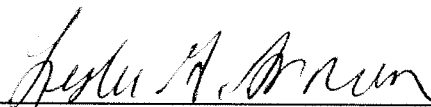
If you are willing to settle this matter on the offered settlement terms, you may do so by signing the acknowledgment at the bottom of this letter, and returning it to the Board office. In such event, this letter will be a matter of public record.

In the event you are unwilling to settle this matter on the offered terms, it may be referred to the Attorney General's office for the initiation of appropriate disciplinary action. In such event, you will be afforded an opportunity to defend against the alleged violations. If an evidentiary hearing is deemed warranted, the Board will either conduct that hearing at a date and time to be scheduled or refer the matter to the Office of Administrative Law. You are advised, however, that in the event formal charges are filed, the Board may assess civil penalties in an amount greater than that herein offered in settlement should any charges against you be sustained. Additionally, the Board may, if the facts are found to so warrant, enter an Order, requiring you to reimburse certain monies and/or requiring you to pay costs incurred by the Board. Should you have any questions concerning this letter or the settlement offer herein, you contact Deputy Attorney General Olga E. Bradford, who may be reached at (973) 648-3696.

If you elect to settle this matter presently, you should sign the acknowledgment at the bottom of this letter and return it to the Board within fifteen (15) days following your receipt of this letter. In the event that the Board receives no response from you within fifteen (15) days, the Board's settlement offer will be withdrawn, and the matter will be referred to the Attorney General's Office for the initiation of the appropriate enforcement action.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF
VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By: _____



LESLIE G. ARONSON
Executive Director

ACKNOWLEDGMENT: I, **GREGORY PIERETTI, D.V.M.**, hereby acknowledge that I have read and reviewed the settlement proposal set forth in the above letter. I acknowledge the conduct which has been charged. I am aware that, by signing this acknowledgment, I am waiving any rights I may have to defend myself against any charges of wrongdoing at an administrative hearing. I am also aware that the action taken against me by the Board herein is a matter of public record, and that this letter is a public document. I hereby agree to pay a penalty in the amount of **\$1,000.00**, which is to be paid upon our signing of this acknowledgment, for engaging in repeated acts of negligence, malpractice, or incompetence, contrary to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(d), and to comply with the other requirements contained in this settlement letter.



GREGORY PIERETTI, D.V.M.

DATED:

cc: Deputy Attorney General Olga E. Bradford

RECEIVED

APR 16 2007